



# Check Us Out

San Diego Public Library

Summer 2002

## Grand Opening - Mission Valley Branch Library



where native California sycamore trees and wild river plants thrive. The *Sycamore Leaf Canopy*, which won an AIA award for "Best Divine Detail," features leaf-patterned steel panels atop the eight tree-form columns which support the roof. The *Sycamore Leaf Cascade*, with its iridescent, blue-and-green color-edged, acrylic leaves, hangs shimmering from the skylight in Natasha's Reading Room, designed for the youngest children as a memorial space for a lost child. The stair and balcony artwork, *Railing of Wild River Grasses*, is composed of glass panels etched with indigenous riparian plants. Also conveying the look and feel of the river are the gentle curve of the floor plan, the sand and pebble footpath leading to the entrance and circulation desk, and the curving stainless steel sheets that link to form the exterior façade of the building. Between the library and its retail neighbor is a sheltered garden with its own reflecting stream meandering toward the river, providing a tranquil place to read or just relax on a bench.

The 34<sup>th</sup> branch of the San Diego Public Library opened its doors to the public with great fanfare Saturday, July 20. Before the ceremonies began, members of the San Diego Junior Theater sang selections from their most recent production. Mayor Dick Murphy and Councilmembers Toni Atkins, Donna Frye and Jim Madaffer, accompanied by local residents and children, many of whom were dressed as their favorite book characters, arrived on the trolley. Clifford the Big Red Dog and the Cat in the Hat led them all to the library. At 10:00 a.m. the officials spoke briefly; the Mayor donned his Harry Potter costume and cut the ribbon; and the excited crowd eagerly entered.

The building is elegant and inviting. Architect Richard Blackman's design, which was awarded "Best Institutional Design" by the San Diego chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), honors Mission Valley's agrarian past with a vaulted metal roof, reminiscent of a dairy barn. It rises to 35 feet preventing the building from being overwhelmed by its larger commercial neighbors in the Fenton Marketplace shopping center. Art installations by Joyce Cutler-Shaw reflect the library's location near the San Diego River



The 19,760-square-foot library, on a 2-acre site, houses 70,000 materials and has state-of-the-art technology. Its most innovative feature, however, is long operating hours — 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. Sunday — to serve students and working people who

cannot visit during the day. The library includes a children's reading room, meeting and seminar rooms, a computer lab, audiovisual collections, and a Friends' of the Library store. A mezzanine floor has a carousel-shaped balcony where library patrons can step outside to read or enjoy the view. The glass top of the clock tower at the front of the building, which will be visible from the Highway 805 overpass and from Interstate 8, will display four different colors — one every 15 minutes. This architectural feature is certain to

become a landmark to trolley commuters who get off at the Fenton Marketplace stop.

**Mission Valley Branch Library**  
**2123 Fenton Parkway (West Side of Ikea)**

## A Message from the Director

On the home page of the City of San Diego web site is a photograph of Mayor Dick Murphy. Under his name are the words "A City Worthy of Our Affection." In December 2000, the Mayor embarked on a bold agenda of 10 goals to ensure that the City of San Diego is still worthy of our affection in the year 2020. One of those goals was to **Build a Library System That Will Serve the Needs of All San Diegans**. True to this vision, the Mayor and City Council have made significant progress toward reaching that goal.

These are exciting times for San Diego Public Library! Libraries across the nation have been experiencing a boom in construction and renovation in recent years. Contrary to popular thought, new and expanded libraries have been continuing to open even though a growing number of people can access the Internet from home and visit libraries electronically. Now, thanks to the enlightened leadership of our elected officials, San Diego has joined that movement. On July 30, at a special meeting held at San Diego State University, the Mayor and City Council unanimously voted "yes" for a \$303 million, 10-year plan to build a new Main Library and 12 new branches as well as expand 10 existing branch libraries, nearly doubling the square footage of municipal libraries in San Diego.

On May 20, prior to the decision to implement the library plan, the Mayor and City Council unanimously approved the proposed Library Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2003, which included second year funding of the Library Ordinance. This \$4.2 million increase is very positive for the Library and will fund:

- ▶▶ Staffing and support for the new Mission Valley Branch Library
- ▶▶ \$1 million to address deferred maintenance needs of library facilities
- ▶▶ Librarian II and Library Assistant positions for the Small Business Resource Center which had been grant-funded

These decisions confirm the City's commitment to the importance of libraries as sources of information and knowledge and as centers for civic activity in San Diego communities. This fall the Council will vote on a financing plan for the projects. As a July 12 *San Diego Union-Tribune* editorial stated, "It is hard to imagine a more worthy civic endeavor for the information age."

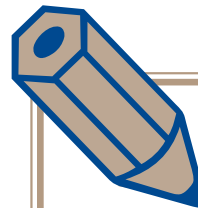
*Anna Tatár*

## Library Matching Book Fund

Every contribution to the Library Matching Book Fund is matched dollar for dollar by the City of San Diego! Here is how it works...a donor gives money to Central Library, a branch library or the library system. The contribution is matched 100%, with 50% of the match going to the location(s) indicated by the donor. The other 50% is placed in a fund for libraries that rarely receive donations. This win-win situation results in more new books and materials for our libraries. To contribute to the Matching Book Fund, mail your donation to the address listed below. Call (619) 236-5849 if you wish to use a credit card.



**Development Office  
San Diego Public Library  
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Visit us at  
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Library Director, Anna Tatár  
Editor, Arian Collins



For information, call (619) 236-5848  
Visit us at [www.sandiego.gov/public-library/](http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/)

Central Library 820 E. Street, San Diego, CA 92101

# Briefly Noted...

**City TV 24** is planning an ongoing series of art-oriented interview programs hosted by Visual Arts Librarian Mark-Elliott Lugo. The first in the series is an interview of artist Herbert Olds on June 14 at the Taylor Pacific Beach Branch Library where his works were on exhibit. Additional footage was shot in Olds' studio. The interview aired on Cable Channel 24 in July. This series will bring major exposure to the library visual arts program, as each interview will air many times.



Photo by C. Clifford, Left to right: Barbara Walbridge, Herbert Olds and Mark-Elliott Lugo

**Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library** will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in October. In preparation for the event, local Boy Scout Troop 648 repotted 12 large entryway palm trees as a National Youth Service Day project. A \$300 grant, provided by SAVY (Students Actively Volunteering for You) to purchase new pots, made the project possible. A great time was had by the 15 scouts who participated.



**Erma Taylor O'Brien** passed away April 11 at the age of 90. In 1987, Mrs. O'Brien and her brother Vernon Taylor donated money to build the Earl and Birdie Taylor Pacific Beach Branch Library, named in honor of their parents.

As part of the **Steinbeck Centennial Project**, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the San Diego Public Library hosted a book discussion at Central Library led by Professor Jackson Benson,

speaking about his book, "John Steinbeck", a collection of unpublished travel writing, war front dispatches, political essays and manuscripts which trace Steinbeck's 30-year career in journalism.



**Library staff honored...**in July, **Judy Valadez**, Library Clerk at the Rancho Peñasquitos Branch Library, and **Ann Skains**, Senior Clerk in the Library Business Office, were named Employees of the Quarter....Judy for her hard work and strong customer service ethic and Ann for creating an atmosphere of cooperation and teamwork.

**Traditional Native American Dances performed by Eric Runningpath** were enjoyed by 498 people at the opening event of the Summer Reading Program at the James P. Beckwourth Branch Library on June 18.



**Best Of San Diego ([www.bestof.com](http://www.bestof.com))** featured San Diego Libraries in their July BestOf Education Directory. Balboa, Carmel Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Clairemont, La Jolla/Florence Riford, Mira Mesa, Rancho Bernardo and Rancho Peñasquitos branch libraries all made the list.

**Free Yoga Classes, at Otay Mesa Branch Library**, taught by Ausberto Cisneros of the Universal Great Brotherhood, have been so popular that two sessions are now scheduled each week. Tuesday evening classes will be taught in Spanish; Thursday classes in English.



**Bill Sannwald, Library Design and Development Manager**, was featured in the August 5, 2002, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, Biobytes column. His favorite web sites? City of San Diego Public Library at [www.sandiego.gov/public-library](http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library); Online Computer Library Center, [www.oclc.org/home](http://www.oclc.org/home); San Diego State University, [www.sdsu.edu](http://www.sdsu.edu); and Official Site of the San Diego Padres, [www.padres.com](http://www.padres.com).





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*And a big thank you to all of our Friends' Groups!*



For information on becoming a Library League member, please call (619) 238-6615.

## Hall of Famer Ozzie Smith Featured on SABR Baseball Card

The San Diego Ted Williams Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) Chapter unveiled its inaugural baseball card, featuring legendary shortstop Ozzie Smith and the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center at a June 20 news conference at the Central Library. The high-quality glossy card, printed by The Upper Deck Company of Carlsbad, features a full-length color portrait of Smith and a narrative about him and the Baseball Research Center.

The Ozzie Smith card was distributed throughout the San Diego Public Library system as part of the summer campaign, 'Join the Major Leagues @ your library.' The American Library Association and Major League



Library Director Anna Tatár  
and Ozzie Smith.

Baseball designed this program, which helps people build information literacy skills by using print and online resources to answer contest questions about baseball.

In the year 2000, San Diego SABR and the San Diego Public Library entered into a partnership creating the San Diego SABR Baseball Research Center. They are working toward building one of the most comprehensive centers in the world. According to Ozzie Smith, "This Baseball Research Center is a magnificent...way to provide access to those who are interested in baseball resources that previously were not available to the public in this part of the country."

## KUDOS TO CENTRAL LIBRARY FROM SAN DIEGO JOURNALIST....

*Roger Showley, staff writer for the San Diego Union-Tribune, recently sent the following letter to the Library Director commending Central Library staff.*

Dear Anna:

I've been meaning to write you to say how incredibly useful the Central Library (and its staff) have been to me in recent months. Virtually every week, when I'm working up a story, I find it necessary to call up and run over to E Street and get a book or look at a document that's available nowhere else with as little effort and as much access.

I needed a bio of Gene Klein when I was doing a story on Alex Spanos. You had it. When I was going to Springfield, Mass., to cover the opening of Dr. Seuss National Memorial, I needed a guidebook and you had it. You had a copy of the 1964 feasibility report on what is now Qualcomm Stadium (the city clerk's office, manager's office etc. could only find a page from one of the appendices). You had a first-edition copy of Charles Dudley Warner's 1891 "Our Italy" travelogue on Southern California. You had the New York City — history video series from PBS. You have all the back census records. And all the material Rick Crawford has had catalogued on Balboa Park will prove very useful as stories about the park come up.

Numerous times of the day, I have to access the Internet and look up something current. But when it comes to historical information, particularly something strictly about San Diego, only you or the San Diego Historical Society archives are likely to have it.

I can't wait until the California Room becomes the California Floor in the new library and all the material buried in the subbasement can be lodged within reach. The public will find out what the rest of us have known all along — that you are the best and have the most!

Until then, I'll remain forever grateful that when I call, your wonderful, cheerful, resourceful librarians and staff are there with the answers, or at least the roadmap for where to find them. Thank you and them for being there when I need you. You're the 911 of the information superhighway.



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## *Longtime San Diego Public Library Staff Retire*

After 41 years with San Diego Public Library, **Helga Moore, Deputy Director of the Central Library and Technical Services Division**, has retired. Helga first came to the library in 1960 as an Exchange Librarian from Norway. She had a very distinguished career making significant contributions in many areas, including job assignments in each of the three divisions in the department. Thanks to Helga's leadership, professionalism and dedication, new levels of library service were achieved during her tenure. The Friends of Central Library have made a donation in her honor to purchase books for the Wangenheim Room collections.

In May, **Evelyn Kooperman** retired after 30 years. She joined the staff in 1972 as a Reference Librarian in Central Library's History Section. From 1978 to 1988 she served as Music Librarian in the Art and Music Section managing the music collection and coordinating the chamber music series. In her last assignment, Evelyn worked in the Literature Section, where she developed much of the section's nonfiction



collection. As the author of "San Diego Trivia" and "San Diego Trivia 2", Evelyn was frequently invited to give talks on San Diego, writing, and library resources to groups throughout San Diego County.

Helga and Evelyn will be greatly missed by their many friends and admirers. Those who worked with them offer a sincere "Thank You" for their years of dedicated service and wish them a happy and healthy retirement.